

GEORGE LAM

SUITE
for cello

MANCHESTER LIGHTHOUSE MUSIC

GEORGE LAM

SUITE

for cello

MANCHESTER LIGHTHOUSE MUSIC

Preface

Suite for Cello was commissioned by Sara Sitzer for the inaugural Gesher Music Festival of Emerging Artists, which featured music that connects classical chamber music and the Jewish perspective. As my contribution to the festival's program, this suite is both a conversation with my favorite solo cello repertoire (including music by Bach, Britten and Ligeti) as well as a conversation with the Jewish tradition itself.

The suite contains four movements. The *Nocturne* and *Serenade* – two “night-songs” – open and close the work, recalling the cycles of sunrise and sunset, natural events that both begin and end a day of ritual and worship. The second movement retells a story where Elijah and Rabbi Baroka of Hoza'a discuss various people destined for the World To Come, where the cello portrays the many different characters in the scene. The third movement is a set of variations on the shofar's sound, and is based on the natural harmonic series of the cello.

Duration: approximately 11 minutes.

Suite for cello was commissioned by Sara Sitzer and the Gesher Music Festival of Emerging Artists. The work was first performed by Sara Sitzer on June 24, 2011, at the St. Louis Jewish Community Center.

Special thanks to Brian Howard.

An electronic copy of the score is available as a free download at www.gtlam.com.

© 2011 George Lam (ASCAP). All Rights Reserved.

for Sara Sitzer
SUITE FOR CELLO

GEORGE LAM (2011)

Nocturne

Not too slow, with rubato (♩ = c. 82)

p

p rit.

a tempo (arco) , rit. Più mosso (♩ = c. 88) rit.
p *f*

Slow pizz. rit. a tempo (♩ = c. 82) arco
p *mf* *p* *pp*

p

Più mosso (♩ = c. 120)

rit.

Musical notation for the Più mosso section, bass clef. It features a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a half note, and then a triplet of eighth notes. The piece concludes with a series of eighth notes marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a ritardando (*rit.*) marking.

Fantastical (♩ = c. 108)

rit.

Musical notation for the Fantastical section, treble clef. It begins with a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a half note, and then a triplet of eighth notes. The piece concludes with a series of eighth notes marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a ritardando (*rit.*) marking.

molto rit.

a tempo

Musical notation for a section with tempo changes, bass clef. It starts with a triplet of eighth notes marked *f* and *molto rit.*, followed by a half note. The tempo then changes to *a tempo* with a quintuplet of eighth notes marked *p*. The section ends with a series of eighth notes.

rall.

Musical notation for a section with a rallentando, bass clef. It features a series of eighth notes marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a rallentando (*rall.*) marking.

Deliberate, moving forward, ♩ = c. 96

Musical notation for the Deliberate section, bass clef. It features a series of eighth notes marked with a simile (*simile*) dynamic.

rall.

accel.

rit.

Musical notation for a section with tempo changes and dynamics, bass clef. It starts with a series of eighth notes marked *p* and *rall.*, followed by a half note. The tempo then changes to *accel.* with a sextuplet of eighth notes marked *p*. The tempo then changes to *rit.* with another sextuplet of eighth notes marked *p*. The section ends with a series of eighth notes marked *p*.

Tempo Primo (♩ = c. 82)

3

pp

pp

pp

f warm

p

molto rit.
pizz.

Elijah and the Rabbi on the World To Come

Always moving forward, ♩ = c. 88

RABBI

arco

*p parlando, fluid, with rubato**

mf

p

pp

poco rit.

ELIJAH

mf resonant

* Move between 5-, 6- and 7-tuplets smoothly; rubato ad lib. throughout, as in speech.

♩ = c. 56

PRISON GUARD

Musical score for Prison Guard. The piece is in a 2/4 time signature with a tempo of approximately 56 beats per minute. It begins in the bass clef with a *pp* dynamic. The melody is characterized by a steady, matter-of-fact quality. The score includes a key signature change to one sharp (F#) and a *rall.* (rallentando) marking. The piece concludes with a *pp* dynamic.

mp calm, slow

Tempo I (♩ = c. 88)

RABBI

Musical score for Rabbi. The piece is in a 2/4 time signature with a tempo of approximately 88 beats per minute. It begins in the bass clef with a *f* (forte) dynamic, described as urgent. The score features several sixteenth-note passages with slurs and fingering numbers (5 and 6). It concludes with a *pp* dynamic.

Methodical, ♩ = c. 56

PRISON GUARD

Musical score for Prison Guard. The piece is in a 2/4 time signature with a tempo of approximately 56 beats per minute. It begins in the bass clef with a *f* (forte) dynamic, described as stately and righteous. The score includes sixteenth-note passages with slurs and fingering numbers (6 and 3). It concludes with a *p* (piano) dynamic.

Tempo I (♩ = c. 88)

RABBI

Musical score for Rabbi. The piece is in a 2/4 time signature with a tempo of approximately 88 beats per minute. It begins in the bass clef with a *f* (forte) dynamic, described as getting slightly faster and still urgent. The score features sixteenth-note passages with slurs and fingering numbers (5, 7, 6, and 6). It concludes with a *f* (forte) dynamic.

poco accel.

Musical score for Rabbi. The piece is in a 2/4 time signature with a tempo of approximately 88 beats per minute. It begins in the bass clef with a *f* (forte) dynamic, described as resonant. The score features sixteenth-note passages with slurs and fingering numbers (6, 6, 6, and 7). It concludes with a *f* (forte) dynamic. A second ending bracket labeled 'II' is shown at the end of the piece.

Methodical, ♩ = c. 56

PRISON GUARD

Musical score for Prison Guard. The piece is in a 2/4 time signature with a tempo of approximately 56 beats per minute. It begins in the bass clef with a *p* (piano) dynamic, described as steady. The score includes sixteenth-note passages with slurs and a fingering number (3). It concludes with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking.

p steady

espr. **rall.**

Tempo I (♩ = c. 88) **RABBI** **Tempo II (♩ = c. 56)** **PRISON GUARD** **Tempo I (♩ = c. 88)** **RABBI**

p *f* *sub. p* *calm* *f*

inquisitive

PRISON GUARD **rall.** **Tempo II (♩ = c. 56)**

p *p* *plainly, tasto, slow*

ELIJAH **rall.** **non vib.** **Tempo I (♩ = c. 88)** **RABBI**

pp *f* *radiant* *f* *urgent again*

Quasi-Scherzo (♩ = c. 96) **CLOWNS / BROTHERS**

f *bouncy, bright, light*

Tempo I (♩ = c. 88)

rall.

pp
sotto voce

f

p

Shall the horn sound and the people not tremble

Lento rubato (♩ = c. 60) accel. rall. Andante (♩ = c. 96) accel.

pp *sempre sostenuto*

mp

(♩ = c. 60) accel. rall. (♩ = c. 60) accel. rall.

senza vib.

pp

mf *pp*

pp *mf* *pp*

(♩ = c. 96) (♩ = c. 116) (♩ = c. 60) accel. rall. accel.

ord. senza vib. ord. (short)

pp

mp

pp

* The "dotted slur" denotes no breath (break) between the two notes.

Con moto (♩ = c. 72) accel. (♩ = c. 96) accel. 7

pp *pp* *mf*

. rall. (♩ = c. 96) accel. rall.

p *mp*

Più mosso (♩ = c. 104) accel. Faster (♩ = c. 120)

p *mf* *p* brilliant

Meno mosso (♩ = c. 72) accel. (♩ = c. 96) accel. (♩ = c. 96)

p *mp* *p* *mf* *pp*

accel. (♩ = c. 120)

mf *p* *mf* *f*

rall. rall. Lento (♩ = c. 52) rall.

ff espr. *p* *pp*

Serenade

Moderato pizzicato (♩ = c. 56)

The musical score is written in bass clef with a 3/4 time signature. The tempo and articulation are marked as "Moderato pizzicato" with a quarter note equal to approximately 56 beats per minute. The score consists of six staves of music, each containing a series of chords and some melodic fragments. The dynamics are indicated by *p espr.*, *mf*, *p*, *pp*, *mf*, *pp*, *f*, *sim.*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *pp*, *p*, and *mp*. There are also slurs and accents throughout the piece.

Musical staff 1: Bass clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff begins with a wavy line. Dynamics include *pp*, *mf*, and *f*. The music consists of chords and rests.

Musical staff 2: Bass clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff begins with a wavy line. Dynamics include *p*. The music consists of chords and rests.

Musical staff 3: Bass clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff begins with a wavy line. It includes the marking *molto rall.* followed by a five-measure rest. Dynamics include *f* and *p*. The staff concludes with a double bar line.

May 31, 2011
Somerville, Massachusetts